

Dear

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email dated 21 December requesting information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked for:

- 1. Regulation 27 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulation 2002 provides for the release of information from DVLA's vehicle register to the police and local authorities. The regulation allows us to release data to individuals, private and public sector organisations providing they can demonstrate reasonable cause to have it. What information is given to private companies when they are granted the information they request?**

The information leaflet MIS546 attached provides information on what evidence we require and the information we give out when an enquiry is made.

- 2. How are private companies vetted to ensure they have reasonable cause to have access to this information?**

For manual enquiries, each request is individually processed therefore reasonable cause is scrutinised before information is released.

Before a company is granted an electronic link it must have valid Data Protection registration which must be appropriate for processing DVLA data. All unregulated companies must be members of a DVLA approved Accredited Trade Association (ATA) and adhere to its code of practice. DVLA also undertakes checks against the company including credit and director checks. Companies must also serve a mandatory six-month probationary period, during which time a specified number of valid paper requests must be made.

DVLA also carries out audits of companies to monitor their behaviour in the use of our data. There is a three-year rolling programme of audits, with provision for

conducting targeted audits of companies when it is felt necessary. The audit involves a physical visit to the organisation concerned to check security of the premises and storage of the information, interview with the organisation's representative(s) and examination of the documentation and/or other records for a sample of data requests made. Any companies found to have not complied with the required standards may be suspended from receiving keeper details. Annual and random on team checks are also carried out on organisations.

3. How much money has the DVLA received from private organisations as a result of their request for information in the past 24 months from when my inquiry is answered?

The table below shows the amount received by DVLA from private companies under both the electronic and manual services for the financial years 2012-13, 2013-14 and from 01/04/14 to 31/12/14.

Year	Total Figure Received (Electronic)	Total Figure Received (Manual)
2012-13	£6,334,000	£626,000
2013-14	£7,683,000	£646,000
01/04/14 – 31/12/14	£6,648,000	£476,000

Please note the figures for 01/04/14 to December 2014 are interim figures and are subject to year-end audit.

While DVLA is permitted to charge a fee for the release of information under the reasonable cause provisions, it is not permitted to profit from it. The fees are set to recover the related administrative costs and this means that it is the applicant and not the taxpayer who funds this activity.

4. How many requests for the above information has been granted in the past 24 months from when my inquiry is answered?

While DVLA holds this information, section 21 of the FOIA exempts DVLA from providing information which is reasonably accessible to you by other means. DVLA routinely publishes volumes of transactions processed on our website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/who-dvla-shares-data-with>.

5. How many requests for information have been denied in the past 24 months from when my inquiry is answered?

No electronic requests are declined/refused as this is an automated process. DVLA does not hold declined/refused figures for manual paper enquiries, as rejected applications are returned with the payment to the requester, stating the reason for rejection.

The information which follows concerns the procedures for making any complaint you might have about the reply. Please quote the reference number of this letter in any future communications about it.

Yours sincerely

ppRobert Toft
Head of Data Sharing Policy & Freedom of Information Team

Your right to complain to DVLA and the Information Commissioner

If you are not happy with the reply to your request, you can ask DVLA to re-consider the response you received by writing (within two calendar months of receiving this response) to either foi@dvla.gsi.gov.uk or DVLA Freedom of Information Team, DSPG/FOI, D16, DVLA, Swansea SA6 7JL.

DVLA will acknowledge and consider your request, re-visiting the response provided. This is known as an Internal Review and will be considered by a staff member not involved with the original reply.

If you disagree with the outcome of the Internal Review, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information can be found via: www.ico.org.uk/concerns/getting Alternatively you may wish to write to: Customer Contact, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.